

WELD COUNTY FSA USDA NEWS

NEW LIVESTOCK AND CROP DISASTER PROGRAMS FOR 2005-2007

Sign-up for the new Livestock Compensation Program and Crop Disaster Program have started.

Eligible ranchers and other livestock producers who owned livestock in 2005-2007 and suffered weather related pasture losses or who purchased feed over and above what they normally did between Jan. 1 and December 31, 2006 can now apply to receive benefits under the **Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)**.

Weld County farmers that suffered at least a 35% **quantity** loss to their crops began signing up for the **Crop Disaster Program (CDP)** on **October 15, 2007**. USDA will announce and conduct CDP sign-up for **quality** losses as soon as details for the program are known. The **CDP** provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses and for those who were prevented from planting due to water losses in

2005, 2006 or 2007. Producers may only receive benefits for **CDP** in one of the three years and only producers who had crop insurance (FCIC) coverage or coverage under the **Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)** for the year of loss will be eligible for payments. The loss level must be in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP.

The law that authorized the LCP and CDP also included a third program called the **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)**. This program would make payments for death losses suffered due to severe winter storms; however, there were no official disaster declarations made in 2005-2007 specific to winter storms so producers are not eligible to apply for this program in Weld County.

Should you have any questions about these new disaster programs be sure to contact the FSA county office for more details or clarification.

SIGNUP INFORMATION NEEDED FOR LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM AND CROP DISASTER PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

In most cases, when you come in to apply for the **Crop Disaster Program (CDP)** the FSA office will have the needed information to complete an application. We have already received downloads from FCIC showing paid losses and production records, and the NAP files contain any producer coverage, payments and losses for that program. Remember, only producers who had FCIC or NAP cov-

erage are eligible for the CDP.

To apply for the **Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)** you will be asked to provide the following information:

- 1.) number and type of livestock on hand on January 1 of year(s) applying.
- 2.) acres of dryland pasture owned or cash leased.
- 3.) details on pasture

ATTENTION

Please call our office as soon as you are ready to enroll in the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) or Crop Disaster Program (CDP) so we can set up an appointment for you.

970-356-8097



Weld County Field Service Center

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DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **Livestock Compensation Program signup began September 10, 2007**
- **Crop Disaster Program signup began October 15, 2007**
- **Dec 1, 2007: NAP sales closing date for grass and hay.**
- **Dec 3, 2007-final date to vote in County Committee Election.**

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SELECTING A NEW ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY

With today's farming operations covering more than one county, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) wants to inform producers they have the option to combine their farm records in the FSA office of their choice for convenience purposes. Selecting a new administrative FSA office is an option available to producers for the ease of servicing FSA program participation on farms in multiple counties.

Ordinarily Farm Service Agency procedure dictated that farm units were administered in the county office where the land was physically located. That restriction created the following problems:

- Producers had to visit two or more FSA offices for each task they wished to complete.
- Duplication of some tasks by the affected FSA offices and delayed payments as paperwork was transmitted between counties.

Changing to a new administrative county allows a producer to transfer farm records to a neighboring county office if they can document to FSA that the change would be "significantly" more convenient. Examples of significantly more convenient would be working in the town, or doing most other farming business in the

town. Other reasons may exist. Transferring farm records to a new administrative county office for convenience is a one time selection for the current operator and land owner. The operator and land owner must agree to do business in the new administrative county once the records are transferred. However, a new operator would have the option of transferring the land to another county in the future.

Additional information on transferring farm records is available at any FSA office. ***Please note that special provisions might apply to the administration of farm loans.***

Finally, many of you have heard about the possible combination of the Larimer and Weld County FSA offices with the combined office being in Weld. We are still waiting to see if this combination actually takes place but, if it does, part of the combination process will be to offer farm transfers to other offices in neighboring counties for producers who would find it more convenient to do business there. This is independent of the Administrative County selection outlined at the beginning of this article. Should the combination take place, more information will be provided at that time.

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS/AUTHORITY

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- A married woman shall sign her given name: Mrs. Mary Doe, not Mrs. John Doe
- For a minor, FSA requires the minor's signature and one from an eligible parent (Note, by signing the applicable document, the parent is liable for actions of the minor and may be liable for refunds, liquidated damages, etc.)
- When signing on one's behalf the signature must agree with the name typed or printed on the form, or be a variation that does not cause the name and signature to be in disagreement. (Example - John W. Smith is on the form. The signature may be John W. Smith or J.W. Smith or J. Smith. Or Mary J. Smith may be signed as Mrs. Mary Joe Smith, M.J. Smith, Mary Smith, etc)
- FAXED signatures will be accepted for certain forms and other documents provided the acceptable program forms are approved for FAXED signatures. Producers are responsible for the successful transmission and receipt of FAXED information. (Examples of documents **not** approved for FAXED signatures include: Promissory note, Assignment of payment, Joint payment authorization, NAP actual production history and ap-

proved yield record, Acknowledgement of commodity certificate purchase, Financing statement, UCC financing statement)

- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
 - Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities
 - All members of a general partnership must sign for the general partnership unless an individual is authorized to act on the behalf of the general partnership and bind all members
 - Spouses may sign on behalf of each other's individual interest in a partnership, unless notification denying a spouse that authority is provided to the county office
- Acceptable signatures for general partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, estates, and trusts shall consist of an indicator "by" or "for" the individual's name, individual's name and capacity, or individual's name, capacity, and name of entity

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.

FINAL DCP AND CRP PAYMENTS FOR 2007

Direct and Countercyclical Program (DCP): Enrolled producers can expect their final direct payment to be directly deposited into personal bank accounts sometime during the first three weeks of October. Producers who did not elect to receive an advance direct payment will receive their entire direct payment for the year in one lump sum after the end of the fiscal year (September 30).

The direct payment for a crop equals 85 percent of the farm's base acreage *times* (x) the farm's direct payment yield *times* (x) the direct payment rate.

If there are any unearned advance countercyclical payments, Commodity Credit Corporation will automatically subtract those amounts from the final Direct and Countercyclical Program payments issued in the fall.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP): Payments began to go out the first week of October and they are being done by a lottery system (not in alphabetical order). Most payments (except problem cases) will be out by the last week of October. If your payment doesn't arrive in your bank account by November 1st, check with the office to see if there is a problem.



2008 COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION INFORMATION

Nominations for the county committee election were due in the county office by August 1, 2007. Weld county received only two nominations: Jeffrey Cooksey and Frederick Hepner Jr. The next step in the election process is the mailing out of the ballots, which will begin on November 2, 2007. Voters have until December 3, 2007, to return their properly completed ballots to the county office. Elected committee members and alternates take office on Jan. 1, 2008. Ballots will be counted on December 6th beginning at 10:00 AM at the Weld County FSA office.

Prospective Voter Requirements -

The voter must be eligible to participate in any FSA program provided by law, regardless of the status of funding and

must meet one of the following requirements:

1. Voter is of legal voting age and participates or cooperates in any FSA program, or
2. The voter is not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm.

Discrimination Prohibited - No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

If you have any questions about your eligibility to vote, please contact your county office staff.



Be sure to cast your ballot for the Committee Election. The County Committee system is an important part of the FSA system and your help in electing the best qualified candidate is appreciated.

NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

The next **Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)** application deadline for perennial crops is fast approaching. The NAP program is designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production for an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. NAP is available for any crop not covered by Federal Crop Insurance (FCIC).

December 1, 2007 is the final date for producers to apply for NAP coverage in Weld County for grass pasture and alfalfa, grass or mixed hay. Other upcoming deadlines for applying for NAP include March 15th for vegetable and fruits, millet, oats, sunflower and safflower and sorghum.

Producers who had NAP coverage may choose to continue coverage on the same crops for next

NAP insurance coverage is available for any crops not insured by Federal Crop Insurance. The cost is minimal at \$100 per crop not to exceed \$300 per county and not to exceed \$900 for all crops and counties you have an interest in! See the FSA for more information.

year, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date.

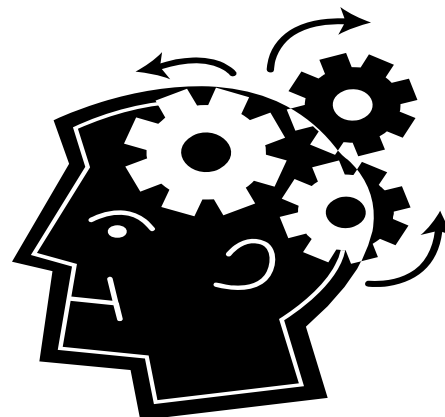
Those who wish to add or delete a crop from the previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471, with signatures, and pay the applicable service fee.

Producers with NAP coverage are required to **1)** file a Notice of Loss within 15 days of when a loss is apparent; **2)** timely file acreage reports; and **3)** keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods.

Farmers who received disaster payments in previous years should remember that they may be required to purchase NAP in order to remain in compliance with the Disaster program.

THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- Call the FSA ASAP to schedule your appointment for enrollment in the Live-stock Compensation Program and/or Crop Disaster Program at 970-356-8097.
- Be watching your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots on November 2, 2007. Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by the close of business on December 3, 2007.
- Notify the county office of ownership or other land changes ASAP.
- Washington is in the final process of developing a new farm bill. Stay tuned for new information as it is made available to the FSA office.



Weld County Field Service Center

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COUNTY COMMITTEE:

Hiram Hill, County Committee Chairman

Kenneth Rosling, County Committee Vice Chairman

Kevin Schmidt, County Committee Regular Member

Gigi O'Hare, Minority Advisor

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Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please call Wayne K. Rieger, CED at 970-356-8097 "

Farm Service Agency Website: www.fsa.usda.gov

Weld County Field Service Center

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